

The Arizona Republican.

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PHOENIX, ARIZONA, MARCH 20, 1901.

Last September a meeting of the citizens of the valley was called for the purpose of devising another way and means for OPPORTUNITY securing a greater and more permanent water A-BORNIN' supply. This meeting was largely attended by all classes of men. The opera house was full of interested citizens eager for light and knowledge. The season's drought had been terrible. All had been smitten by the blight and the scourge had made conquest of every nook and corner of the valley. Some had lost their all by the death of orchard or vineyard, others had lost merely a season's profits, but all had suffered. The meeting lasted the entire day. Many earnest speeches were made: speeches drawn so deep from the heart that they assumed the importance and weight of prayers. It was agreed that a permanent supply of water must be secured. Experience had taught that enough moisture fell in various forms on our vast water sheds to develop to its fullest extent all the land now under cultivation, and perhaps a hundred thousand or two hundred thousand acres more. But this moisture was allowed to run untrammelled to the sea. It was not saved. No attempt had ever been made to save it. It fell and vanished while the farmers stood helpless, with gaping mouths, and the merchant had more time on his hands than business in his store or money in his till.

At the close of the meeting a committee of thirty-six men, representing every canal, every section and every industry in the valley was selected "to devise ways and means for securing a storage reservoir." Since then the committee has met two or three times a week. The effervescence of the enthusiasm displayed at the early meetings gradually settled into sterner and more wholesome stuff. Men thought something practical and tangible would be evolved, and hope budded in the hearts of all. Then came periods of depression. Discussions appeared. There was talk, talk, talk, and inaction and grumbling and accusations. Motives were impugned and cliques were formed and some determined if the plan they advocated were not adopted no plan would be. Then the rains came and the need of water grew happily less. The drought of the past season was forgotten, and men began to believe that the scourge was forever lifted and would no more be laid upon this fair land.

The water storage committee has virtually disbanded. It has been difficult to secure a quorum at its later meetings. The members have become disgusted and the grandest opportunity ever offered our people has been squandered and slumped and driven away. The insidious hope of federal aid has stolen in and adulterated the usual judgment of our people and they have sadly fallen. In the hope of getting something for nothing, they, like our Indians, are willing to sit and dream and hope. Like Micawber they are waiting for something to turn up. Like the red man they sit on the sand and sigh and curse and long for hand-outs. The droughts that have crippled us in the past will cripple us again. Every year the long summer will follow the winter, bringing a water famine, and the hot winds will deluge the land moaning like a withering simoon of despair. Industrial paralysis is sure to follow. We know these results will follow, yet we wait and put off the time of doing something that will bring relief.

Let us reason together. What will we gain by inaction and delay? We may get federal aid, you say. Lay aside delusions and seriously ask yourself the reasons of such belief. What has Arizona ever gotten from the federal government? Every state in the union is represented on the river and harbor bill, but you will search the items in vain for Arizona. We are a territory and liable to remain so indefinitely, and anybody who

knows anything at all about the manner of procuring legislation knows that a territory stands no chance of securing favors. Ask Governor Murphy or Col. McCord or Hon. Hugh Price, or any other man who has had experience and he will tell you that law-making is based on compromises and swaps rather than right or justice. States may in the near future be aided but territories, except to help Indians, never.

Then suppose the government should come to our aid. No storage bill that has ever emerged from a committee room has stood a ghost of a show of passage by the house except the Newlands bill, and that bill was shamefully handled and defeated. And is the Newlands bill what we want? Let us see. It provides that the secretary of the interior may select sites. That means that sites will be selected in states having a political pull, for not many men can withstand political influence. It provides that reservoirs may be constructed in localities where there is sufficient desirable PUBLIC LANDS. That means that the government may confiscate the McDowell or Tonto Basin sites, dam them there, the flood waters and carry this water right by our homes and farms and reclaim the PUBLIC LANDS below Peoria.

And what will the poor valley do then? The lands we are living on: where our homes are; where our capital is invested are not public lands. Consequently we will have no right to the use of the stored waters. Originally, the Newlands bill contained a clause giving the secretary the right to conduct water to public lands or lands that had already been redeemed, but that clause was stricken out, and such discretionary powers killed.

Again, the bill does not provide for a gift of a reservoir to any locality by the government. The building of a dam constitutes a loan and users of water must reimburse the government for all expenditure. Then what do we gain by federal aid? Do we want it? Will we be helped any? Why not build the dam ourselves and own it and control it? Do we want the government to complete the Tonto scheme, store all the water that our ditches cannot carry, and reclaim more public lands? How will we be benefited by such action?

The editor of this paper is not hankering to pay two dollars in taxes where he now pays one. Nevertheless, when he knows that by the expenditure of a certain sum of money he can increase his business two to ten fold, his business acumen and sagacity commends the investment. This valley lost enough cash last year on account of a scarcity of water to have built the Tonto dam. There has been enough water gone to the sea this winter to have filled the Tonto reservoir. Droughts will come again followed by rainy seasons. A reservoir would corral the surplus water that is wasted in the rainy seasons and keep it for our dry ones. Thus a happy equity may be maintained and universal prosperity assured. Yet we halt and growl and grumble and curse, and wait—and wait—and wait.

We believe that all this quibble over irrigation legislation; all these cruel accusations; all impugning of motives are ill-timed and can result in no good. If all the energy that has been wasted, all the gray matter that has been ruined had been expended in efforts to secure the building of a dam and the storing of water we would now possibly have unity instead of division; harmony instead of discord, and be much nearer the solution of this vexed question; much nearer the goal of our industrial ambition. With plenty of water all causes for contention would melt away. Priority of right would cut no figure then. In prosperity's harvest jubilee suspicion of one's neighbor would vanish and the fear that another was getting what belonged to us would no longer intrude.

The Republican is not begging favors from this legislature or any other; set one man or any set of men, from democrats or republicans. If GENTLEMEN, we have earned any compensation for conscientious work we will accept same with gratitude. If we have not we are not entitled to consideration. At an expense of more than \$200 per month we have covered the legislative proceedings. The Republican has appeared on each member's desk every morning. The proceedings could then be read by each member and tab be

The Cause of Many Sudden Deaths.

There is a disease prevailing in this country most dangerous because so deceptive. Many sudden deaths are caused by it—heart disease, pneumonia, heart failure or apoplexy are often the result of kidney disease. If kidney trouble is allowed to advance the kidney-poisoned blood will attack the vital organs or the kidneys themselves break down and waste away cell by cell.

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kept on work in the other house. The proceedings have been reported as they occurred, without bias and without prejudice. We have no apology to make for our editorial comment. Our thoughts and opinions are our own and no honest man will condemn another for honesty of opinion or of comment. If we were muzzled our opinions would be worthless. We will not be mental vassals for any amount of money the legislature could appropriate. Mr. Ives, and every member, has a right to his opinions. He may be right and we may be wrong. It may be vice versa. At any rate if either be honest either is honorable. We have not filled our columns with senseless praise of any member. Had we done so we would now be open to the suspicion of striving to bribe the members with fulsome compliments. After the legislature adjourns and its members have gone home we will be as independent as in the past but we will be free to praise where praise is due. And we are free to state now that this legislature is a meritorious and worthy one in very many respects. The members will please bear in mind that The Republican has not bombarded them with petitions for donations.

It is not because Dr. Ford, member of the council from this county, yesterday spoke in advocacy of The Republican in the matter of the printing bill, that we feel constrained to say something regarding his work. Whatever benefit that bill was intended to carry to this paper was never asked for in the beginning and has never been pursued by The Republican at any time since. Though Dr. Ford was not the choice of The Republican in the last campaign, it may state now that it has been pleased to endorse his course with respect to every measure affecting the taxpayers and the good name of Arizona. He has been not only a wise, but an aggressive and skillful member, and has prevented the passage of some legislation for which taxpayers will be thankful, and he has forced other legislation for which they will also be thankful. If there is anything that we regret concerning the recent public career of Dr. Ford, it is that he was not elected on the republican ticket.

The Republican has had occasion to criticize and condemn Senator Ives somewhat severely in the past few weeks. It did so not from any motives of ill-will or of spite, but purely because it thought Mr. Ives unjust and vindictively partisan in selecting a single member of the official family to vent his spleen upon. Now that there is an opportunity to praise we gladly avail ourselves of the privilege. We believe the senator's new bill, framed after the "Riley law," which he introduced in lieu of the notorious and odiferous "112" is a good bill and should become a law. Its enactment and enforcement will injure no innocent man. The guilty should tremble and suffer.

The republican federal official who finds it necessary to seek the support of the most vindictive democratic pa-

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per in the territory, presents a strange anomaly, especially as the vituperative assaults of that paper upon President McKinley and his administration have been carefully preserved for the president's information.

It may be a trifle warmer in Phoenix in summer than in North Dakota, but for our part we would rather hunt shade than saw wood.

The republican party in Maricopa county is not large enough to split. In unity there is strength and hope of success.

Progress and improvement are not always synonymous terms. A people may grow in gall instead of grace.

MY MOTHER'S FAITH.

The fire upon the hearth is low, And there is stillness everywhere, Like troubled spirits here and there, The firelight shadows fluttering and creep, And the shadows round me creep, A childish treble breaks the gloom, And softly from a farther room, Comes "Now I lay me down to sleep."

And somehow, with that little prayer, And that sweet treble in my ears, My thoughts go back to distant years And linger with a dear one there; And, as I hear the child's amen, My mother's faith comes back to me; Crouched at her side I seem to be, And mother holds my hands again.

O, for an hour in that dear place! O, for the peace of that dear time! O, for that childish trust sublime! O, for glimpse of mother's face! Yet as the shadows round me creep, I do not seem to be alone— Sweet magic of that treble tone— And "Now I lay me down to sleep."
—Eugene Field.

Don't Marry.

Almost everybody remembers the celebrated advice of the London Punch, "To those about to marry. Don't." There is in that advice the expression of the feeling of many a mother who says, "I hope my daughter will never marry and suffer as I have."

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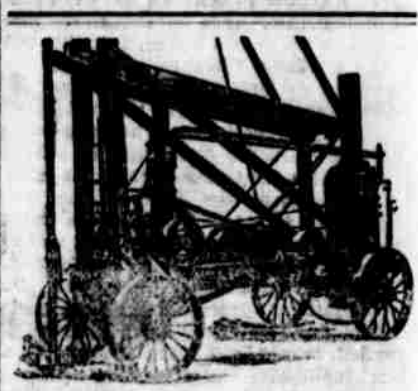
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